



Fall Calendar of Events

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

Sunset Hike

Explore the twilight sights and sounds of the canyon during a 1.5-mile, roundtrip hike.

7:00- 8:30 p.m.,
Fri., Sept. 23

Moonlit Hike

Join park staff for a moonlit, two-mile hike. Enjoy the unique opportunity to see the canyon by moon-glow!
8:00- 9:30 p.m., Sat., Oct. 8
7:00- 8:30 p.m., Sat., Dec. 10

Scorpion Search

Have you ever wanted to see a scorpion up close? Join us to learn more about these amazing creatures and search for resident scorpions!
7:30- 8:30 p.m.,
Fri., Oct. 14

Monsters in the Desert
Gila monsters are one of the most mysterious and endangered creatures of southwest Utah. Join Ann McLuckie, Wildlife Biologist, as she discusses the biology of these fascinating lizards. Find out how Gila monsters are studied using radio-telemetry

and try radio tracking for yourself!

10:00- 11:30 a.m.,
Sat., Oct. 22

Rise of the Feathered Dragons

Did you know you are surrounded by living, breathing dinosaurs? They live among us and are far more common than mammals! Join Dr. Jerry D. Harris, Director of Paleontology at Dixie State College, during this evening program and learn more about the origins and evolution of these 'dragons' in our midst.
7:00- 8:00 p.m.,
Fri., Oct. 28

Snow Canyon Geology Hike

From volcanic activity and lava flows to petrified sand dunes—learn more about the shaping power of geologic forces! Join Geologist, Janice Hayden, on this two-mile, round trip hike.
10:00- 11:30 a.m.,
Sat., Nov. 5

Simple Campfire Desserts

Join us around a toasty fire to bake and sample some simple campfire desserts. Leave with recipes for your next camping trip.
7:00- 8:00 p.m.,
Sat., Nov. 12

Nature's Bounty

Learn to identify traditional uses of some of Snow Canyon's edible and medicinal plants during this 1.5-mile, roundtrip hike.
10:00- 11:30 a.m.,
Sat., Nov. 19

Lava Tube Hike

Join park staff for a two-mile, roundtrip hike and the chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube!
1:00- 2:30 p.m.,
Sat., Nov. 26

Sunset Nature Sketch

Admire the changing colors of early evening and enjoy the magic of sketching nature on this 1.5 mile, roundtrip hike!
4:30- 6:00 p.m.,
Fri., Dec. 2

All listed events are free and open to the public. Space is limited; registration required. Program registration is held two days preceding the scheduled event.

Register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435) 628-2255.

Johnson Canyon
ranger-guided hikes offered twice weekly through October.

Program times vary—please call (435) 628-2255 for current weekly schedule.

Snow Canyon State Park

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Ivins, UT 84738

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Utah State Parks:

Providing opportunities to enhance the quality of life by preserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

Gray Fox: Where Are They Now?

This fall, observant and lucky park visitors may catch a glimpse of some 'foxy' canyon friends. Frolicking gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) pups were observed last spring along the Hidden Pinyon trail peeking curiously out at passing hikers. Not often seen, this young family was an exciting discovery.

A couple pups, bolder than their littermates, appeared *not* to abide the notion of 'lying low'! Creating much buzz among hiking groups, they often 'popped up' from their cliffside den to see who was going by. Not surprisingly, it wasn't long before 'mom' relocated them to another, less conspicuous den. Now that they have had time to grow and mature, visitors have asked what they might be doing now?

After their birth in April or May, the young pups would have been weaned by about 10 weeks. During this time 'dad' would have provided food for the whole family. Though primarily nocturnal, gray fox can sometimes be seen foraging during the day, seeking mainly small mammals—but as



they are omnivores, they will also eat eggs, insects, lizards, snakes, birds, prickly pear fruits, acorns and juniper berries. The fox family will remain together throughout the fall, but separate with the arrival of winter when gray fox are usually solitary.

The gray fox is smaller in size than a coyote—ranging from 32 to 45 inches in length, including its tail, and weighing an average of eight pounds. They are identified by their coat color: silver-gray on the back and face; reddish on legs and chest; and white on the throat and mid-belly. The tip of its long bushy tail is black with a black stripe along the top. A thin black stripe runs from the outside corner of their eyes looking almost 'mask-like'. In the wild, gray fox may live between seven to 10 years.

Unlike their red fox cousins, gray fox are excellent tree climbers! Sharp, curved claws provide them this unique ability and allow them an escape from coyotes, dogs or other predators. Considered 'rare', the gray fox shares our canyon with other more common canine residents—the kit fox and the coyote. So, if you want to spy a gray fox during your next visit to Snow Canyon, remember to look up!



—Gray Fox in Snow Canyon, 2011 photographs
by Rick Fridell